

# Columbus Art Commission

## Certificate of Approval Application NEW WORKS OF ART

Application # \_\_\_\_\_ (For office use)

### Project Name

Cynthia's Compass

Date July 1, 2015

### Exact Location of the Proposed Project

The right of way between the sidewalk and the street on West North Broadway  
between Milton and High Street in Clintonville. Specifically the right  
of way in front of 169 West North Broadway

### Type of Art Work

Granite and Marble sculpture

(e.g. sculpture, mural, installation, video, etc.)

### Type of Action Requested (check as many as apply)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Conceptual review of project design and placement   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Placement approval |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Design approval | Alteration to CAC approved design and/or placement     |
| Design reconsideration                              | Placement reconsideration                              |

### Proposed Installation (check as many as apply)

- Temporary - Please list length of duration (up to 5 years) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ Long-term - Duration greater than five years to indefinitely
- Installation of individual work(s)
- Integrated into the design and physical development of a building, capital improvement, park, plaza, etc.
- On property owned or leased by the City of Columbus
- In, on or over the public right-of-way

### Ownership

- Art will be owned by the City of Columbus
- Art will be donated to the City of Columbus
- Art will be loaned to the City of Columbus
- ☒ Art will be privately owned with no affiliation to the City of Columbus and will be maintained by the applicant.

### List the City Department responsible for design, placement and maintenance of the installation, if applicable

### Affected City Department Contact

Name Patti Austin Dept of Develop. Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

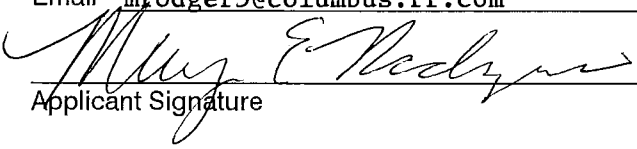
---

**Applicant Contact Information**Name Clintonville Historical SocietyAddress P.O. Box 14315, Columbus, OH 43214Phone 614-657-6854

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email mrodger5@columbus.rr.com

Website \_\_\_\_\_

  
Applicant Signature

Supporting City Department Signature

**Please include eight hard copies and one electronic version in PDF format (DVD/CD) of the check list materials, unless otherwise indicated.**

Artist/organization project description, including how the project originated and who is involved.

Resume/Exhibition List and CD Rom or photos of Artist's previous work.

Proposed timeline for fabrication and installation (and removal date/plan if temporary).

Specific materials: specify dimension, weight, materials, color, texture and finish. Provide one full set of samples.

If the work is a mural, specify type and brand of paint. Include maintenance considerations for all materials.

Artwork foundation/support attachment.

Site plan and contextual photo of site. Please note whether the site/building (if mural) is listed as historic, or is located in a historic district.

Elevation drawings showing the relationship of the work to the site.

Scale model of the work showing its relationship to the site (if required by the Commission).

Budget and funding sources (committed and anticipated).

Include a strategy for maintenance, including a complete list of all maintenance requirements.

If the work is to be donated or placed on loan, provide a letter of support from the coordinating City Department.

Documentation of community process, including input and responses, from neighborhood organizations, such as city commissions, civic associations and societies, as applicable.

**Temporary Art Only**

In addition to the items listed above, provide proof of liability insurance. If the insurance is being provided by another organization, please list the entity.

---

**Artist Contact Information**Name Agnes BurrisAddress 86 Walhalla Rd. Columbus, Oh 43202

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Website \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: Columbus Art Commission Approval shall be required in addition to any other approval or permit that may be required by the City of Columbus prior to such placement or to allow continued placement. This includes, but is not limited to, the issuance or renewal of a Special Right-of-Way Permit pursuant to Chapter 910.*

Please submit this form to:

Lori Baudro, AICP

Program Coordinator

Columbus Planning Division

50 W. Gay Street, 4th floor

Columbus, Ohio 43215

614.645.6986 [P] 614.645.1483 [F]

lsbaudro@columbus.gov

## **Cynthia's Compass**

### **Project Description:**

Clintonville was founded by the sons of pioneer Thomas Bull, Jr. Son Alanson focused on building a business district. Son Thompson focused on education. Son Jason managed the religious elements of the community.

Originating in the State of Vermont, all of these men were abolitionists. Son Jason was a known "conductor" on Ohio's Underground Railroad. He worked in conjunction with the Black Conductors of Columbus-teamsters Louis Washington and his son Thomas, James Poindexter and others- to route runaway slaves via Clintonville and Bull to points further north. Jason made his living as a circuit riding preacher. He would leave home for several weeks at a time. When he was gone, the Underground Railroad activities would continue, assisted by his brothers and other neighbors.

In the late 1890s, Jason's daughter, Cynthia, participated in research conducted by Wilbur Seibert. She recounted a story of her involvement with her father's abolitionist work. She said she would place food in a large basket and set out to "collect eggs". In reality, she would deliver this food to slaves hiding in the barns and outbuildings of her father's farm.

With respect to Jason Bull's involvement in the railroad, Seibert's research is supported by other historical records. For instance, Bull was the speaker at the second meeting of the Worthington Abolitionist Society. Bull's neighbor, Joseph Smith, becomes the President of that organization and he and his wife work with others to establish the town of Berea, KY-a free town in a slave state.

Children are every generation's legacy. As parents and neighbors, we know our actions, more than our words, teach our children. Cynthia's moral compass was set by the actions of her parents and neighbors.

The Clintonville Historical Society would like to memorialize the strength of our pioneer on Memory Lane (aka West North Broadway). We approached Clintonville resident and artist Agnes Burris to see how she might envision a tribute to Clintonville's involvement in the Underground Railroad, Ms. Burris immediately connected with the story of Cynthia.

She envisions the sculpture to be comprised of granite and marble slabs between 3-4 feet tall, 2-3 feet wide, and 2" thick. Each slab is to be cut into identical silhouettes. The black silhouette is to be engraved front and back with the constellations (see PDF); the white slab is to be engraved front and back with the map. The slabs will then be notched so that they can be intersected vertically and stand erect.

The resulting sculpture will be set on a base of granite and placed in a garden. It will join other monuments on West North Broadway (aka Memory Lane). Presently, three gardens line the north side of the street. Ultimately, twelve gardens are envisioned.

### **Organization information:**

Clintonville Historical Society  
P.O. 14315  
Columbus, OH 43214

### **Artist information:**

The contact information for Ms. Burris is:

68 Walhalla Road  
Columbus, OH 43202  
agnes.burris@gmail.com

### **Materials and Maintenance Plan:**

Tecstone Granite, located here in Columbus, will be responsible for fabrication, assembly and installation of the sculpture. We have purposely chosen to make the sculpture from durable materials (granite and marble). The artist is working closely with Tecstone to insure that the sculpture is for the most part maintenance free.

The sculpture will sit in a garden. In order to minimize maintenance, that garden will be planted with native materials. In fact, we hope to transplant materials from the existing gardens.

Each garden is sponsored by a homeowner located near the garden. Those homeowner's have done an excellent job of maintaining the garden areas. That said, the Society has also engaged the services of a local high school student to assist the sponsoring homeowners with mowing the grass, mulching and trimming of the garden beds.

Note: West North Broadway is part of the Keep Columbus Clean program and the Clintonville for Change organization does host at least one formal clean-up of the right of way each year.

**Budget:**

Artist fee:	\$1000
Fabrication of the sculpture:	\$3600
Fabrication of two (2) samples	\$400
Creation of garden bed	\$500
Promotion of project	\$200
Misc.	\$300
Total	\$6,000

**Civic Process/Timeframe:**

The Society's Board has reviewed and formally approved the project. We have mailed out newsletters and fundraising materials to over 300 households in the Clintonville area. We presented the project to the Clintonville Area Commissioners on June 4, 2015. We have had a newspaper article in the 6/18/2015 TheWeek Booster. We will be hosting the official launch event on Saturday July 11 at 7:00 at Moxie's Gifts 3468 North High Street in Clintonville. The following Tuesday, we will host a program on the Underground Railroad. That program will include staff from the Kelton House. After that meeting, we will install a formal display of the project at the Whetstone Library. We have raised about half of the required funds for the project. Our goal would be to have the project approved this evening, place the formal order for the sculpture tomorrow and have this project completed by the end of October 2015. If we cannot install the sculpture before mid-November, we will need to wait for spring.

From the artist:

**Cynthia's Compass** : A Proposed Sculpture for the Underground Railroad Memorial Garden, W. North Broadway, Columbus, OH. Commissioned by the Clintonville Historical Society. Artist: Agnes Burris.

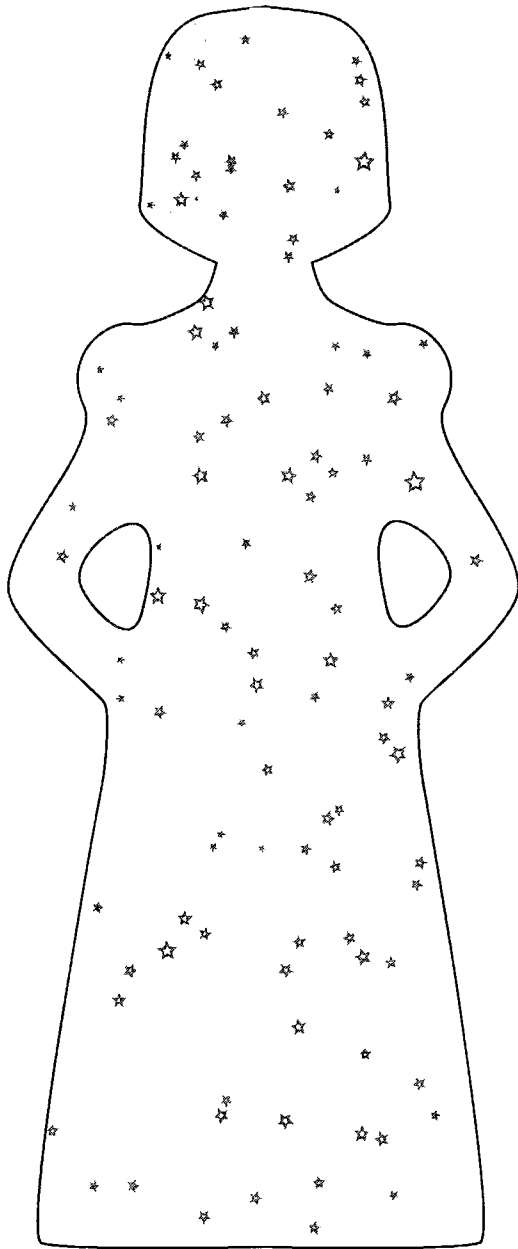
Among the many eye-witness accounts of the Underground Railroad recorded by Columbus historian William Seibert is the story of a child, Cynthia, the daughter of Clintonville abolitionist and Underground Railroad conductor, Jason Bull, secretly taking food and drink in her egg basket to the hidden runaways on the family farm. Inspired by the true story of Cynthia Bull the proposed sculpture **Cynthia's Compass** would honor the everyday heroics of the men, women, and children who risked all to help fugitive slaves escape north to freedom.

The sculpture will be comprised of two granite slabs, one black and one white, between 3-4 feet tall, 2-3 feet wide, and 2" thick. Each slab is to be cut into identical silhouettes of a young girl in 1800's style clothing.

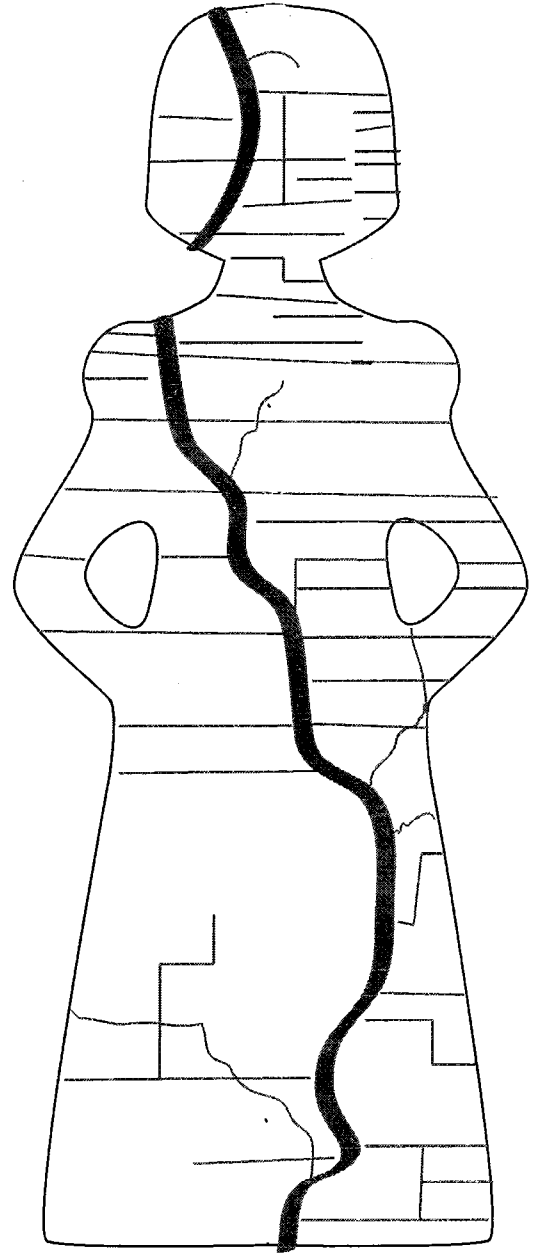
The black silhouette is to be engraved front and back with constellations of the Northern hemisphere. Fleeing slavery, African Americans traveled by night avoiding well traveled roads. Many used the sky as their compass, relying on the stars to guide them North to the Ohio River.

The white slab is to be engraved front and back with the 1842 map of Clintonville featuring the Bull property plot and the Olentangy River flowing from the head to the foot of the slab.

The slabs will then be notched so that they can be intersected vertically and stood erect. When completed the finished sculpture will be placed in its garden and aligned with the cardinal directions, the black portions pointing north and south while the white point east and west.



Black Granite



White/Light Granite

# Society begins promotion of new Memory Lane garden

*Latest garden, artwork along West North Broadway will pay tribute to local residents who helped runaway slaves*

By KEVIN PARKS  
THISWEEKNEWS.COM

Clintonville Historical Society President Mary Rodgers and local artist Agnes Burris will make the rounds of groups and organizations in coming months, seeking to drum up interest in and support for the latest addition to Memory Lane on West North Broadway.

Burris and Rodgers appeared before the Clin-

tonville Area Commission earlier this month to make a brief presentation on the proposed latest edition to the series of roadside gardens commemorating the neighborhood's past.

Joining already established Memory Walk gardens that welcome visitors to Clintonville, pay tribute to the performing arts and commemorate soldiers who served in World War II and Vietnam will be those celebrating the

neighborhood's ties to the Underground Railroad, Rodgers said.

The main focus of the latest installation, which she said probably will happen in late fall or early spring, will be two silhouettes 40 inches tall — "child size," as Burris put it — of a girl. They will serve as a tribute to Cynthia Bull, daughter of the Rev. Jason Bull, an abolitionist who served as a "conductor" on the Under-

ground Railroad. Cynthia often brought food and water to runaway slaves.

The Memory Walk garden dedicated to the Underground Railroad will be called Cynthia's Compass, Burris said. The name evokes not only a directional compass but also a moral one, she said.

The two silhouettes will meet at right angles, according to information supplied at the commission session. One

will be made from black marble, the other from white marble.

Rodgers said she and Burris, a native of rural Mississippi who studied anthropology and art at Columbia University, according to her website, will speak to organiza-

tions in Clintonville and give presentations about the proposed project.

Eventually, Rodgers said, the society will apply to the Columbus Art Commission for permission to place the public art garden along West North Broadway.

169 W N. BROADWAY

PROPOSED  
GARDEN  
SITE

EXISTING  
GARDEN ON  
NORTH SIDE  
OF STREET



04/19/2014

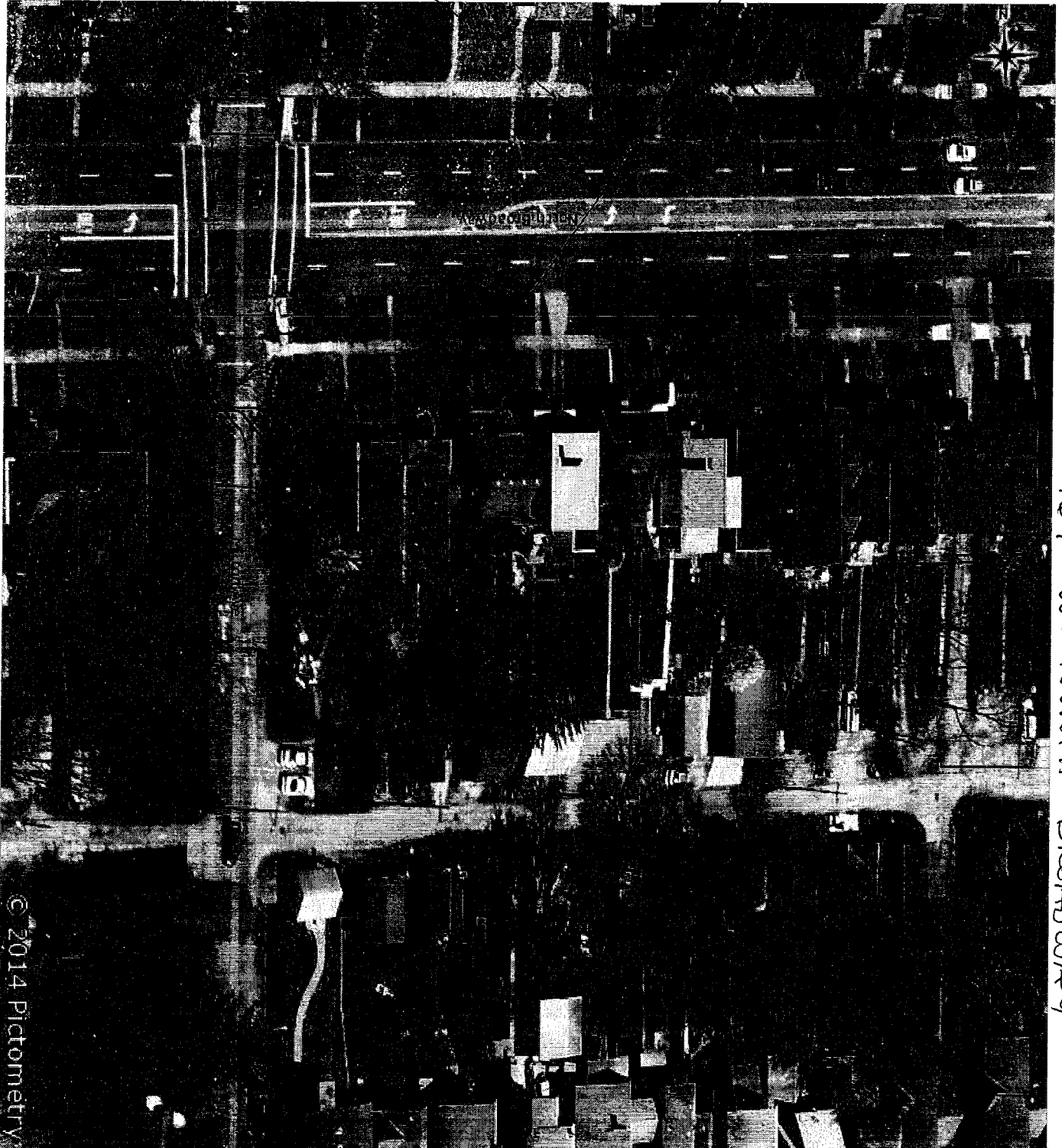
© 2014 Pictometry



PROPOSED  
SITE

EXISTING  
GARDENS

04/19/2014



169 W. NORTH BROADWAY

© 2014 Pictometry